

AMENDMENT

What we claim is:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified double stranded ~~short interfering ribonucleic~~ nucleic acid (siRNA) molecule ~~comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand~~, wherein:
 - a. the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
 - b. each strand of said the siRNA nucleic acid molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length;
 - ~~b. c.~~ c. the antisense strand of said the siRNA nucleic acid molecule comprises about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that are complementary to a human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) nucleotide sequence corresponding to RNA comprising SEQ ID NO:474;
 - ~~e. d.~~ d. the sense strand of said siRNA the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a an 18 to 27 nucleotide portion of said the VEGF nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - ~~d. said siRNA molecule comprises at least one 2' O-methyl or 2' deoxy 2' fluoro nucleotide.~~
 - e. about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in each of the sense and antisense strands of the nucleic acid molecule are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications; and
 - f. one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~said siRNA~~ the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the ~~fragment comprising said~~ sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~one~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of ~~said~~ the antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the ~~5'-end~~ of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Canceled)
32. (Canceled)
33. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the ~~siRNA~~ nucleic acid of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
34. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
35. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 19, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

36. (New) A method of inhibiting the expression of human VEGF comprising administering the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to a human subject in need thereof that expresses human VEGF RNA under conditions that allow for inhibition of human VEGF expression.